

## NEW YORK'S FINANCIAL POWER.

The alarm which took possession of Wall street when it first became apparent that the man most likely to be elected President of the United States could not be relied upon to do anything in favor of the silver standard has somewhat subsided. The conviction has gained ground that the Republicans will declare in their Convention, substantially, if not formally, as they have in previous years, for the maintenance of the gold standard, and that their candidate will be successful. The Democrats, it is believed, will adopt a platform more satisfactory to the silverites, and will be beaten. Any way, nothing can be done in behalf of silver until after next March, and long before that date it will be too late to do anything. Representatives stand on the question. For the present, therefore, the gold standard is regarded as safe, and investors think they will have ample time to protect themselves against the consequences of any departure from the standard, such a departure being imminent. The belief, aided by the light gold exports, by the defeat of the monstrous scheme of saddling upon the city an expenditure of indefinite millions in the construction of an underground railroad for the benefit of its up-town residents, and by favorable news respecting the Standard Oil Trust and the American Sugar Refining Company, has had an invigorating effect upon the market, and established a materially higher level of prices all round.

The discussion of the silver question in political conventions and in the newspapers at the West and in the South has brought once more to the attention of the financial power of New York which prevails in all the sections of the country. That this city supports the gold standard is enough for a large number of the Westerners and the Southerners to insist upon its overthrow. Whatever we think for our benefit they conclude must necessarily injure them, and they therefore oppose it. This feeling has shown itself again and again in Congress, as it did in the Senate last Friday, and it has frequently been powerful enough to defeat measures which to any intelligent and unprejudiced mind were clearly unobjectionable. To be sure, the same feeling has been shown in the House of Representatives last winter one of the staple arguments employed against measures of sound finance was that they were in the interests of New York, and should, for that reason, be rejected. By New York, of course, was meant this city as represented by its own dealers in money, but also those of this whole section of the country, and of Europe besides, who make their headquarters here, and from here carry on their operations. The fact that the New York financiers act in most cases not for themselves, but as agents for a mass of small capitalists and investors, is not taken into consideration. They are all, in the eyes of the silverite and Populist orators, millionaires and multi-millionaires, and, as such, legitimate objects of hatred and vilification.

Little good is likely to result, therefore, from the well-meant efforts of New York, which the silverite and Populist orators are so ready to impute to the mischief that would result from its abandonment. Those who agree with them do not need to have their convictions strengthened, and those who are opposed to them are impatient to argue. What bank Presidents think, what the Chamber of Commerce thinks, or what the Cotton Exchange thinks carries no weight with men who are determined to pay off their debts, if possible, at fifty cents on the dollar, and all the banks and all the exchanges and all the Chambers of Commerce together cannot alter their purpose. They must be voted down, not talked down, and in the voting New York counts only for itself and for no other locality.

In one sense, the hostility of the West and the South to New York financiers is complimentary to them. Men do not hate those whom they despise, but only those whom they fear. If the assailants of the capitalists of New York did entertain a sincere respect for their strength and a due appreciation of the power they wield, they would not waste time in denouncing them. The bitterness of the attacks upon them betrays a sense of the obligations under which they rest. For years the sections from which the abuse of New York comes most freely have been enjoying the fruits of the capital borrowed by them through New York bankers and brokers, and naturally they chafe under the burden. To the friends of the silverite and the Populist against "the money power," which has its seat in Wall street, may readily be detected the rebellious feeling which debators always cherish, more or less, toward their creditors.

Obviously, if the New York money lenders were the tyrants against whom New York they are represented to be, no time should be lost and no pains spared in getting emancipated from them. This could be accomplished most effectually by the simple expedient of refusing to borrow more money from them, and by repaying that which has already been borrowed, as soon as industry and commerce will permit. In this country no man can be made or kept a debtor against his will. He cannot be forced to accept a loan if he does not desire to borrow, nor can he be compelled to remain in debt forever. He needs only to work hard and save his earnings, instead of spending them, and he can sooner or later, the means of releasing himself. The alleged slavery of the debtor to the creditor is like that of the drunkard to alcohol. It is the result of weakness of will, of laziness, and of thriftlessness, and he who complains of it condemns himself as deserving it.

The only debt which is voluntarily contracted and voluntarily ended, but they are contracted, in the first instance, for the benefit of the debtor, and not for that of the creditor. No man borrows money for any other reason than that he hopes to make a profit out of it. This hope, and the desire to gain, are the motives which constitute the real source of the money lender's power. For one man that grows rich merely by laying up his earnings, hundreds have done so by borrowing the savings of other men and putting them to profitable use. Besides the great business, the business of the farmer, the Vanderbilt, Jay Gould, and other financiers, which have been gained in this way, all over the country we see hundreds of thousands of lesser fortunes, for the acquisition of which their owners are indebted to judicious borrowings. Among the very farmers and planters whose households are as comfortable as those of the capitalists, there are few who have not bought their farms and plantations with borrowed money, and have not done well.

What is thus true of individuals is true of towns, cities, counties, and States. The rapid growth and improvement of the new portions of the Union, which is so frequently the theme of self-congratulatory eloquence, has been made possible only by loans of money from the older portions and from Europe, most of which have been obtained through New York bankers. Roads, bridges, schoolhouses, court houses, water works, gas works, mines, factories, and above all, railroads, have been constructed in the West and the South to the value of thousands of millions of dollars of which not one cent has been in existence to-day if it had not been for the accumulation of enough capital for the purpose. The Eastern and the European lenders of the capital thus made large gains by lending it, but they have also lost heavily, while to the communities among which it has been spent its expenditure has been an unabated benefit.

Indeed, so conscious are the Western and Southern men, who most vehemently denounce the capitalists of the East, of the advantages derived from the use of borrowed capital, that one of their standing grievances is the inability of their constituents to obtain loans as freely as they desire. Their favorite remedy for the evil, next to the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, is the printing by the Government of paper money to an amount limited, as they phrase it, only by the wants of the community. How the silver when coined, or the paper money when printed, is to come to the possession of those who want it, they do not explain. They do not seem to be aware that, short of making a gift of it outright, money can be distributed only in payment for property properly valued or in the shape of loans. To give but \$100 to each of the 15,000,000 adult males

than \$1,200,000,000, the issuing of which would reduce the value of the national currency by one-half, besides throwing the whole business world into confusion. A loan by the Government to needy borrowers would be virtually the same thing as giving away the equivalent of such a sum. An increased coinage of silver dollars would put them into the hands only of those who brought the silver to the mint, and any paper money issued, either by the Government or by banks, must, if the Government either lent it or gave it away, be paid out just as our money is paid out at present, according to the discretion of those into whose hands it first legitimately came. The South and the West can be supplied with more money than they now possess only by creating other forms of wealth which they can give in exchange for it, or else by doing what they do now, borrowing from those who have it to lend.

From this dilemma there is no escape; and whether we have the silver standard or the gold standard, Government paper money or bank paper money, the South and the West, if they wish to share with the East the financial power of the Union, can become independent of New York money lenders only by accumulating money of their own. The Middle States have already done this to a large extent. Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota borrowers to a very much less extent than they were twenty years ago, and are even able to lend to their poorer neighbors. What these States have accomplished those which are now complaining of the want of capital and looking to Congress for relief can accomplish likewise. They can dispense with borrowing if they will, but they must allow results of industry and economy, but if they are impatient to avail themselves of that method they must not to revile and denounce the source from which they seek the means of employing one more expeditious.

All that New York can do is to bear patiently the vilification heaped upon it, trusting to the future for its vindication. As the Middle States have gradually passed from the position of borrowers to that of lenders, and ceased to be dependent upon this city for capital, so will the Western and Southern States. One by one their citizens will pay off their debts and have money of their own to invest, and as the number of these increases a juster sentiment in regard to creditors will prevail. Already there are signs of a waning of the free-silver craze, and as soon as the present enlarged output of gold has had time to produce its legitimate effect in raising the level of the price of agricultural products, it will draw away like the greenback delusion of twenty years ago. If the approaching election can be carried decisively against the silver standard, all fear of it may be dismissed for years to come.

MATTHEW MARSHALL.

## FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

## New York Stock Exchange - Sales and Range of Prices on All Securities.

## UNITED STATES AND STATE BONDS (in \$1,000).

Sale.	Name.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
100	U. S. 4 1/2% 1897	110	110	110	110
100	U. S. 4 1/2% 1898	110	110	110	110
100	U. S. 4 1/2% 1899	110	110	110	110
100	U. S. 4 1/2% 1900	110	110	110	110
100	U. S. 4 1/2% 1901	110	110	110	110
100	U. S. 4 1/2% 1902	110	110	110	110
100	U. S. 4 1/2% 1903	110	110	110	110
100	U. S. 4 1/2% 1904	110	110	110	110
100	U. S. 4 1/2% 1905	110	110	110	110
100	U. S. 4 1/2% 1906	110	110	110	110

## RAILROAD AND OTHER BONDS (in \$1,000).

Sale.	Name.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
100	Atchafalpa R.R.	100	100	100	100
100	Atchafalpa R.R.	100	100	100	100
100	Atchafalpa R.R.	100	100	100	100
100	Atchafalpa R.R.	100	100	100	100
100	Atchafalpa R.R.	100	100	100	100
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100	Atchafalpa R.R.	100	100	100	100
100	Atchafalpa R.R.	100	100	100	100
100	Atchafalpa R.R.	100	100	100	100

## RAILROAD AND OTHER BONDS (in \$1,000).

6000	Paik & Chgo	170	170	170	180
1000	East Chicago	100	100	100	100
2000	Brilliant R.T.	230	230	230	240
1200	Canada Southern	50	51	50	51
5000	Canadian Pacific	600	610	600	610
3000	Chl & Onto	300	300	300	310
1000	Chl & Onto	100	100	100	100
3100	Chl & Onto	190	17	190	17
1410	Chl & E. Ill. Pf.	99	99	99	99
21240	Elmgar & Co.	870	950	860	880
50	Chl & Alton	150	150	150	150
1000	Chl & N.W.	100	100	100	100
8330	Chl & N.W.	1040	1060	1040	1060
95	Chl & N.W. Pf.	140	140	140	140
25800	Chl. R. & W.	70	70	70	80